



NOAA Teacher at Sea
Karolyn Braun
Onboard NOAA Ship KA'IMIMOANA
October 6 – 28, 2006

NOAA Teacher at Sea: Karolyn Braun
NOAA Ship KA'IMIMOANA
Mission: TAO Buoy Array Maintenance
Days 1-4, October 4 – 7, 2006

Monday October 2, 2006 -
Wednesday October 4, 2006

After a long red-eye flight from American Samoa, NOAA Officer Rebecca Waddington greeted me at the Honolulu International Airport. As the sun came up, we drove to pier 45. As I made my way onto the ship, I was introduced to the crew: The NOAA officers, the deck crew, the engineer crew, the scientists, and the doctor.

The next few days were filled with walking around Honolulu and getting



NOAA Ship KA'IMIMOANA docked in Honolulu.

used to ship life.



A helicopter emergency drill.

Thursday October 5, 2006

The sun was just above the horizon and already the KA'IMIMOANA was buzzing with movement as the crew was getting ready for an on-time departure. The horn sounded as we sailed out of the harbor. The plan of the day was to conduct a helicopter emergency drill and then return to the fueling dock for a six-hour fueling session. Half way through with fueling, we were informed that our departure was going to be delayed till Friday morning due to some electrical difficulty with the alarm systems.

Friday October 6, 2006

All systems were go as we headed out of the fueling harbor at noon. The ocean was calm but there was an uneasiness in some of the crew as it is believed to bad luck to sail on a Friday.

All new hands onboard attended a safety lecture where we learned what to do in case of: man-overboard, fire and collision, or abandoned ship emergency. A while later an abandoned ship drill was conducted. All hands had to grab their assigned gear and meet at their designated safety boat. Our "gumby suits" had to be put on and whistles checked, after which we were able to dress down without PFDs (Personal Floatation Device) on to await further instructions.

As the sunset an amazing full moon rose to fill the night sky. What a wonderful night!



NOAA Teacher at Sea, Carolyn Braun, tries on her "gumby suit."

Saturday October 7, 2006

The morning started with my assisting one of the researchers with fixing a CTD. The Conductivity, Temperature & Depth instrument measures the conductivity and



Dr. Braun assists in repairing a CTD instrument.

temperature of water, which will assist in obtaining the amount of salinity. Using the salinity and the temperature, the density of the water can be determined. In turn, knowing the densities of the ocean, scientists can determine currents. The main CTD instrument is surrounded by 14 or so Niskin Bottles. These bottles collect water at a certain depth to be used in a variety of other tests on ship or on land.

All new hands onboard watched a "HAZMAT: Your Right to Know" video and then the ship's familiarization video.

That afternoon we had a fire drill. All scientists meet in the galley unless the fire is in the galley, and then we meet on the boat deck and act as runners for the ships crew; if any vents need to be closed or boundaries need to be checked, it's all part of a team.